



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter Friday 11th September 2015



Hello all and welcome back! I hope that you've enjoyed the summer, soggy as it was. It was great to see so many smiling faces on the playground (in the bright sunshine!) on Monday morning and the children have settled in well. I am already seeing lots of excellent learning behaviour around the school. During the summer break our premises team have been very busy bees. I hope that you have noticed that the playground has now been cleared of all the old markings and re-marked correctly. We are now waiting for our play equipment to be put in, near the canopy area, later this term. The Year 3 girls' toilets have been completely refitted, with floor to ceiling cubicles, and I know from pupil surveys that the toilets are always high on the list of areas that the children think we could improve. The expansion on the Whitehorse main site is now complete – there were 360 children sitting in our hall on Monday – and we have our first Year 3 class on our Brigstock Road site this year. I'm very much looking forward to the coming year and I hope you all are too.

Jeans for Genes: We are supporting Jeans for Genes this year. This charity raises money for families affected by genetic disorders. If you would like your child to participate, please send them in with £1 on **Friday 18th September 2015**, wearing their blue jeans.

Uniform: Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name. We have already generated some lost property this week! Tracking down owners is time consuming for us, distressing for the child who has misplaced an item of clothing and expensive for you if you need to buy more – a name label makes all the difference. Although I understand that it's getting more and more difficult to tell the difference between black trainers and school shoes, please avoid 'school shoes' made by sporting brands, as these are often more trainer than school shoe. If your child has a medical reason for wearing trainers, please bring in a letter from you orthopaedic specialist, podiatrist or GP. This way we can ensure that all children are treated fairly. Our full uniform policy is in our prospectus which is available on the website.

Reading homework: The most important homework that your child can do every evening is to read. All the research suggests that children who read for 15 minutes per evening, and children who have stories read to them, do better at school in the long term. Children in the juniors have homework reading diaries to record what pages they have read and to make comments on what they have read. Please support your child with their daily reading homework.

Please don't use the front office as a cut-through to the playground. Please use the side entrances onto the playground and only come into the office if you need to see the office staff or when the side gates are locked. This will help to keep us all safe.

Ms N Achenbach
Head of School

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Fri 25 th Sept | Macmillan Coffee Morning |
| Tues 13 th & Thurs 15 th Oct | Parents' Evening from 3:30 pm |
| Fri 2 nd Oct | Lippizan Class assembly (5TN) |
| Mon 5 th Oct | Black History Month begins |
| Fri 9 th Oct | Harvest Assembly led by Morgan - 4P |
| Fri 16 th Oct | Shetland Class assembly (3I) |
| Fri 23 rd Oct | Last day of half-term |